

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-1-12-10

Issued at Soldotna: Thursday, June 3, 2010

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 5, 2010

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday,  
July 14, 2010, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes the Kenai River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 5, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Sport fishing for king salmon will remain closed from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 14, 2010, upstream from the Soldotna Bridge to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.120 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area (2)(A)(i) and 5 AAC 57.120 (3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 5, 2010 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

#### **5 AAC 57.120 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

(2) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length as follows:

(A) from June 5 – June 30, the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway bridge, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon; the Kenai River from July 1 through July 14, upstream from the Soldotna Bridge to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon.

(3) king salmon less than 20 inches in length as follows;

(A) flowing waters and unstocked lakes and ponds are closed to sport fishing for king salmon from June 5 – July 14;

Denby S. Lloyd,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert N. Begich

Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

As provided by 5 AAC 57.160 Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan (2), if the spawning escapement is projected to be less than the lower end of the optimal escapement goal, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, restrict as necessary the taking of king salmon in the sport and guided sport fisheries in the Kenai River to achieve the optimal escapement goal.

The Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 57.160) directs the department to achieve the optimal escapement goal of 5,300 to 9,000 king salmon. Through Wednesday, June 2, the total inriver run is approximately 739 king salmon and the estimated total harvest is fewer than 100 king salmon below the Soldotna Bridge. Based on run-timing models, the department projects a total run of approximately 3,800 fish, indicating that with additional harvest it is likely the optimal escapement goal will not be achieved. Therefore, it is warranted to close sport fishing for early-run king salmon in the Kenai River as specified in the Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon Management Plan.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.